

**MINUTES OF THE SWINFEN AND PACKINGTON PARISH COUNCIL VIRTUAL MEETING HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 22 JULY 2020 COMMENCING AT 7.02 PM**

PRESENT

Councillor Barnes in the Chair
Councillors Armstrong, Dyott and Loescher

In attendance:

Ms J Minor, Parish Clerk

PARISH FORUM

No members of the public were present.

15. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillor Pope.

16. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None declared.

17. MINUTES

RESOLVED That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 20 May 2020 [Minute Nos. 1-14] as circulated, be approved as a correct record.

18. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman made reference to land owned by Mr J Barnes and stated that HS2 thought that they had another Staffordshire Hoard on their hands.

The Parish Clerk informed Members that County Councillor Alan White would be confirmed as Leader of Staffordshire County Council on 23 July 2020 replacing County Councillor Philip Atkins [who was standing down from the role after 11 years].

19. THE HIGH-SPEED RAIL PLANS

Councillor Loescher made reference to the video conference meeting held on 23 June 2020 with representatives from HS2 etc and confirmed that very little had been learnt.

- We only learnt one thing and that was that HS2 Ltd now do not now intend to demolish Packington Moor Farmhouse
- We know nothing more about the shape and size of the bund throughout its length.
- They could not explain the mitigation and “earthworks” North of Packington Moor Farm.
- We learnt nothing about the tree planning that we did not already know.
- The so-called tree expert did not know that a Hornbeam was a deciduous tree.
- HS2 Ltd are now refusing to provide photomontages showing gantries etc despite promising that they would provide at a meeting in December.

Councillor Loescher made reference to the meeting held on 08 May 2019 when Mr C Humphreys, Community Engagement Manager, HS2 had stated that there would be no consultation or engagement but the Parish Council would be informed of the design outcome. Councillor Loescher pointed out that Mr Humphreys had given assurances at the Whittington meeting [held on 20 February 2019] that local communities would be consulted and involved in any necessary mitigation. Mr Humphreys denied that he had said this, and said communities would not be involved or consulted on mitigation.

Councillor Loescher made reference to the fact that HS2 Limited did not agree to the accuracy of the minutes of 08 May 2019 particularly where Mr Humphreys had confirmed that there would be no engagement or consultation on the proposed mitigation once the height of the line was known but the Parish Council would be informed of the design outcome. The Chairman informed Members that he was still awaiting a retraction regarding the accuracy of the minutes from HS2 Limited.

Councillor Loescher asked if the Parish Council could unsuspend the complaint regarding the accuracy of the minutes. Councillor Dyott raised concerns and stated that as a Parish Council we should be representing our parishioners and could not see how they were being disadvantaged or otherwise by the minutes. Councillor Armstrong stated that there was untruthfulness in all levels of Government.

Councillor Loescher made reference to the car park and maintenance road in Jerry’s Lane which had no planning permission.

RESOLVED That Councillor Loescher would draft a letter regarding the accuracy of the minutes.

20. REPAIR TO BUS SHELTER [OPPOSITE WHITTINGTON BARRACKS]

RESOLVED That the quotation in the sum of £189.50 plus VAT be accepted and that the Parish Clerk be authorised to arrange for the repair to the bus shelter to be undertaken.

21. ROAD NAMING AT PACKINGTON HALL DEVELOPMENT

Councillor Barnes made reference to the email communication between himself and Ms Badger, GIS Officer, Lichfield District Council [which had been copied to Members]. The list shown of proposed names, were indeed given by the Chairman to the developer two months ago for roads within the site but not the approach road. [The approach road is within the ownership of the Chairman from the A51 to the Hall site entrance and no agreement or permission has been obtained or even asked for].

Ms Badger had confirmed that the access road is not being named as it would mean changing the addresses of all existing properties accessed via it.

The Chairman confirmed that the road to be named was inside the site.

RESOLVED That the name “Lady Walk Road” be forwarded to Lichfield District Council.

22. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED That under the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960 (Section 2) (and as expended by Section 100 of the Local Government Act 1972), the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information.

23. PARISH CLERK'S SALARY

RESOLVED That cheques be drawn in respect of the Parish Clerk’s June 2020 [cheque number 100548] and July 2020 [cheque number 100551] salary, HMRC - June 2020 [cheque number 100549], Staffordshire Pension Fund - June 2020 [cheque number 100550], HMRC - July 2020 [cheque number 100552] and Staffordshire Pension Fund - July 2020 [cheque number 100553].

24. DATE, VENUE AND TIME FOR NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

RESOLVED That:
Wednesday 16 September 2020
Wednesday 25 November 2020
Wednesday 27 January 2021
Wednesday 24 March 2021
Wednesday 19 May 2021

in the Conference Room 1, Conference Centre, HMP Swinfen commencing 7.00 p.m. be confirmed as the next Parish Council meetings.

(The Meeting closed at 7.22 pm)

Signed

Dated